

Environmental exposures across urban and rural communities in the Deep South

West Central Community Advisory Board

April 16th, 2015

10:00-11:30 AM

Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal (1001 Earl Hillard Road Camden, AL 36726)

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: : Brenda Anthony (ADPH Public Health Area 7), Mary Evans (UAB), Julia Gohlke (UAB), Ethel Johnson (WCACHIL), William Lampley (Cooperative Extension, Sumter County), Aundretta Montgomery (Community Leader), Kay Dunnam on behalf of Pam Stenz (Cooperative Extension, Wilcox County), Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews (WCACHIL), and Steve Wood (Dept of Health, Wilcox Cty).

Observers in attendance: Molly Bernhard (UAB)

Discussions:

The structure and function of the CAB: After short introductions, members revisited the 6-11-2013 meeting minutes and confirmed the overall role of the CAB, the decision-making process, reporting, and membership as stated.

Additional membership: Members discussed the addition of a member involved in county or city government, which may help to facilitate gaining permission to place monitors in public locations. Commissioner John Moton, Mr. McIntosh, and Alma King were mentioned as potential candidates.

Discussion of personal and collective goals: Four questions were presented to the group for discussion: How do you envision your participation on this board? What contributions do you want to provide to this team, your agency, and this community? What do you need and expect-from UAB (or other resources) – in order to accomplish that? Is there any particular information, experience, or training that you need or would like to have in order to help (you, us) accomplish (your/our) goals? Ethel mentioned the issue of air bubbles, milky white color, and odor of drinking water that community members had brought up previously. There were concerns about the wastewater treatment plant at the back of West Gate, the city water from deep wells, and Pine Hill water from the river at the papermill. Members mentioned the challenges with getting volunteers and the lack of recycling and need to truck it to Montgomery or Selma. Brenda was interested in how to relate environmental factors to health outcomes like blood pressure and diabetes, and options for birth control. She mentioned the movement towards organic farming and possible health outcomes related to this. Kay mentioned her goal of involving kids. Her experiences with the 4-H summer program (4-7th grades and 1 day/ month

during the school year), Chick Chain (building coops, monitor feeding, and auctioning), Pig Squeal (pig raising and processing), Beef-O-Bingo, Health Rocks, or Junior Master Gardener may be complementary.

Discussion of monitor placements: The CAB identified areas for monitor placement where people spend time outside. The playground near Bridgeport Park, on the river near a boat launch, health department, courthouse, private residences, places near fishing spots along the river, outside of churches or schools, grocery stores or restaurants, Johnson Ferry House as logging trucks go by, at the church, store or residence across from the papermill (Yellow Bluff near the river). Miller's Ferry Park is near Alabama River and bridge with traffic and is maintained by the Corp of Engineers. The Pine Hill track, West Gate Park, and park near the airport are municipal parks. The members of the CAB requested a short draft letter requesting permission to place monitors on the proposed sites and including prevention strategies like community design and planting trees. Once the CAB has the permission letter, Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews will get in touch with the superintendent of schools. Steve Wood will get in touch with SJ Henderson or Al Hargraves regarding the marina and possibly the municipal parks. Ethel Johnson will contact church located across from the papermill.

Discussion of topics for workshop: The group discussed the workshop format briefly as small groups of 5-6 people with a spokesperson relaying the information to the larger group. Possible topics were stated including septic issues, water coloration, smell and taste, shady places to walk, energy efficiency within the home (unplugging and turning off), the Lambertson latrine, snakes in the high school, and a resource center. Catherine Flowers may be someone to contact regarding work on septic issues and hookworm in Lowndes County.

Meeting schedule: The next meeting was scheduled for 10 am on Tuesday, June 9th at the Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal to meet Ben Zaitchik and team for placement of monitors.